Assistive Technology Ideas for Writing

STRATEGIES & MODIFICATIONS

- Extend time for assignments/tasks
- Reduce or use alternative assignments/tasks
- Adjust seating position (90° x 90° x 90°)
- Peer "scribe" for note taking or dictation
- Seating needs (hearing, seeing, distractibility noise level, traffic pattern, front/back of room, near teacher or peers, etc.)
- Desk (wheelchair accessible, laptop, tilt, flip top desk, lip on side of desk, large table, stand rather than sit, study carrel, etc)
- Reduce clutter on desk
- Allow word cards, spelling list, hints, etc
- Allow alternative methods i.e. oral reports
- Do not penalize for misspellings, poor writing, or grammar
- Allow single word or short answers
- Give multiple choice tests
- Allow either printing or cursive
- Use checklists to help get started
- Teach and review test taking vocabulary
- Provide models of assignments/tests
- NCR paper for peer to provide notes
- Lighting adjustments (more, less, direction)
- Provide outline/lecture notes beforehand
- Spelling journals

LIGHT-TECH

- Pencil grips/holders
- Short pencil stub
- Pens with different grips
- Tape recorder
- Straps/splints for pencil
- "T" holder for pencil
- Chalk holder
- Writing frame
- Wrist weight/hold down
- Slantboard
- Dycem/other material to prevent slippage
- Name/number/date stamps
- Magnetic letters and board/cookie sheet
- Line indicators (raised line, with mid-line, etc.)
- Sections on paper (draw lines, fold, etc.)
- Type of paper (graph, textured, colored, etc.)
- Provide extra white space
- Highlight or color code
- Cover parts of worksheet
- Put less information on page
- High contrast colors
- "Post It" notes for "fill in the blank" tests
- Word cards, book, wall, or file
- Pocket dictionary/thesaurus
- Pencil/pen attached to desk
- Word/sentence windows
- Trace letters/numbers/words with highlighter
- Stencils to trace letters
- Tactile letters/words
- Pictures. drawings, photos, etc.
- Sentence strips
- 3" three ring binder as slant board
- Spinner with parts of story

HIGHER-TECH

- Tape recorder with/without adapted controls
- Electronic/talking dictionary/thesaurus
- Digital tape recorder/Voice organizer
- Portable notetaker (regular or braille)

- **Computer**
- Word processors/text output devices
- Spelling and grammar checker
- Keyguard (with reduced # of keys)
- Keyguard (for all keys)
- Alternative mouse and/or keyboard
- Accessibility Options in Control Panel
- Screen/text reader
- Screen magnifier
- Enlarged or braille key caps/labels/covers
- Screen flasher when sound is emitted
- Alternative methods to access keyboard (mouthsticks, headsticks, electronic)
- On-screen keyboard
- Touch window/screen
- Switch control (single or multiple)
- Utilities to enlarge the cursor, hold windows open, assist with click-and- drag, etc.
- Voice Recognition
- Software strategies (word prediction, abbreviation expansion, etc.)
- Talking word processor
- Software for organization & expression
- Software for alternative output
- Software for screen magnification
- Interactive writing software
- Graphic organizers - Inspiration/Kidspiration
- Word processor forms feature
- Draw/paint software